



NEWS RELEASE

Office of Representative Ethan Orr

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

PHONE: (602) 926-3233 • FAX: (602) 417-3043

Rep. Ethan Orr, R-Tucson (Dist. 9)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GIVING ARIZONA VETERANS A FINAL RESTING PLACE

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX (Feb. 25, 2014) – Rep. Ethan Orr is sponsoring legislation that will aid in the burial of veterans who after serving our country lose connection with their families and pass away without a proper burial.

House Bill 2332 outlines procedures for the verification and burial of the unclaimed cremated remains of a veteran, or a veteran's eligible dependent.

One veteran organization that has helped inspire this legislation is the Missing in America Project (MIAP) Veterans' Recovery Program.

"MIAP is helping to provide peace and comfort to the families of lost soldiers," Orr said. "This legislation will help MIAP and similar organizations give veterans and their families the honor, respect and dignity they deserve."

Often funeral homes are reluctant to release information about unclaimed remains in their possession even to a veterans group because of the potential liability that could arise. Rep. Orr's legislation will give funeral homes the ability to cooperate in the identification process of unclaimed remains in their possession, and then transfer those remains to an organization like MIAP for proper burial if the remains are a veteran.

In the last seven years, MIAP has helped locate and bury more than 2,000 veterans in cemeteries designated for U.S. veterans throughout the United States. In Arizona MIAP has recovered 120 veteran remains and three veteran spouses.

HB 2332 unanimously passed out of the committee on Public Safety, Military and Regulatory Affairs. It is scheduled to be heard in the House Committee of the Whole, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014.

###